(b) if so, whether Governemnt propose to financially assist the State Governemnt to provide better basic amenities in order to attract foreign tourists visiting our country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest/ spots is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned. Department of Tourism, Govt. of India provides financial assistance for the identified tourism projects in consultation with them.

Department of Tourism, Government of India has decided that during the 10th Five Year Plan it will identify six travel circuits in the country on an annual basis and develop them. These circuits will be finalised and developed in close coordination and partnership with the State/UT Governments and the concerned Government of India Departments. In addition to this it is proposed to identify one major destination in each State/Union Territory for overall development each year including the State of Tamil Nadu. During the financial year 2002-2003, Mahabalipuram has been identified for Destination Development.

Tourist places in Orissa and H.P.

731. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate a drive to sell India as a tourist centre, if so, the details thereof and also the details of tourist places of Orissa and Himachal Pradesh proposed to be included in the project;

(b) the countries where this campaign would be kicked off, country-wise;

(c) whether it is also proposed to bring this subject in the concurrent list; and

(d) the measures devised by Government to help private tourist industry to lure or attract foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Promotion of India's tourism products located in the States and UTs including Orissa and Himachal Pradesh is done in the overseas markets through advertising in the print and electronic media, participation in tourism and trade fairs, organising of workshops, dissemination of information through brochures and CD Roms, inviting media personalities under the hospitality programme etc.

(b) The promotional campaigns are undertaken in the primary and secondary markets, overseas which include the Americas, Europe, West Asia, East Asia and Australasia.

(c) The proposal to include "Tourism" in the Concurrent List came up for discussion in the State Tourism Minister's Conference held on 5th September, 2002 but there is no consensus on the subject.

(d) Various incentives and concessions have been offered by the Government to help private sector for development of tourism. A Market Development Scheme has been introduced, which provides financial support to the tourism service providers for a number of activities undertaken towards the growth of overseas markets.

Financial assistance for development of Sivaganga district in Tamil Nadu

732. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the historical importance of Sivaganga district in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether Govern ant will come forward to allot financial assistance to develop this historical place and include it in the all India Tourist map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.